

OUTGOING MESSAGE

COMINT
CHANNELS

Approved For Release 2002/01/14 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100020075-4

SIGNAL CENTER USE ONLY

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CLASSIFICATION									
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MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR									
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SOURCE REF:

1		4		7		10	
2		5		8		11	
3		6		9		12	

TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR MCNAMIS,
STATE RCI//OPERATIONS CENTER FOR MR FRY, NMCC//

25X1A

25X1A

WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS
INVOLVED

ITEM NO: 5

DATE: 28 FEB 74

SUBJECT: ITALIAN MINISTER RESIGNS

REF :

25X1A

UGO LA MALFA, LEADER OF THE REPUBLICAN PARTY--THE SMALLEST
MEMBER OF PRIME MINISTER RUMOR'S FOUR-PARTY COALITION--RESIGNED
TODAY AS PARTY LEADER AND FROM HIS POST AS TREASURY MINISTER OVER
AN ECONOMIC POLICY DISPUTE.

HIS RESIGNATION DOES NOT NECESSARILY MEAN THAT THE GOVERNMENT
WILL FALL. LA MALFA HAS RESIGNED IN THE PAST BUT CONTINUED TO
SUPPORT THE GOVERNMENT IN PARLIAMENT. EVEN WITHOUT THIS "OUTSIDE"
SUPPORT, HOWEVER, THE THREE REMAINING PARTIES--CHRISTIAN
DEMOCRATS, SOCIALISTS, AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATS--WOULD HAVE A SOLID
MAJORITY IN PARLIAMENT. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT THE REPUBLICAN

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PARTY'S CENTRAL COMMITTEE, WHICH MEETS TOMORROW, WILL OPT TO STAY IN THE GOVERNMENT UNDER A NEW PARTY LEADER.

LA MALFA'S DECISION GOES AGAINST WIDESPREAD SENTIMENT AMONG ITALY'S POLITICAL LEADERS THAT THEY SHOULD NOT AGGRAVATE THE COUNTRY'S ECONOMIC PROBLEMS WITH A POLITICAL CRISIS. RUMOR IS KNOWN TO BE EXASPERATED WITH BICKERING AMONG THE COALITION PARTIES, HOWEVER, AND LA MALFA'S MOVE MAY TRIGGER HIS RESIGNATION. IF HE DOES RESIGN, THE DOMINANT CHRISTIAN DEMOCRATIC PARTY WOULD PROBABLY TRY TO SET UP ANOTHER CENTER-LEFT COALITION OR A TEMPORARY ONE-PARTY CARETAKER GOVERNMENT TO CARRY THE COUNTRY THROUGH THE UPCOMING REFERENDUM ON DIVORCE. E2 IMPDET.

SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: W EUR DIV, NIO

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DATE: 23 FEB 74
 ORIG: [REDACTED] WHSS
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